

Ethan Frome, Chapters 1-5

1. What is your reaction to Ethan Frome as a young man? Either describe or illustrate your impressions.
2. What are some similarities and differences between the older Ethan whom the narrator encounters in the prologue and the young Ethan described in Chapters 1-5?

Consider

what you find out about Ethan's inner feelings in Chapters 1-5.

the way Ethan expresses himself as a young man and as an older man.

his physical appearance, as described by the author in the prologue.

his economic condition as a young man and as an older man.

3. How do you think Ethan feels about Mattie Silver? Why?
4. What is your reaction to Zeena Frome?
5. How would you describe the relationships between the three people in the Frome household?
6. Think of how daily life in nineteenth century Starkfield - working, getting around, seeing friends - compares with life in your community today. What might the most significant difference be? Do you see any similarities?

Writing Prompt #2

If Ethan had not felt obligated to care for his ailing parents, his life might have been quite different. Imagine that you have been asked to prepare "Who's Who in Starkfield," a monthly column about local personalities, for *Berkshires Magazine*. Write a biographical sketch of Ethan describing what his life might have been like.